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# Cuba Frees All Yanks Today, Donovan Told

By WILLIAM NEUGEBAUER and RICHARD HENRY

**James B. Donovan, the Brooklyn lawyer who has won world fame by his eloquent successful pleadings to Russian and Cuban Communists, yesterday announced the triumphant windup of his mission to free prisoners held by Fidel Castro.**

In a telegram read by a colleague here, Donovan stated: "I have been informed by the government of Cuba that on Monday I shall leave Havana for the United States with all Americans now serving prison terms in Cuba."

Twenty-seven are to be freed today, and John P. Lynch, a Donovan aid, said the lawyer is due in New York City this afternoon. Lynch said Donovan and the captives would be flown to Homestead Air Force Base, Fla.

From Havana, Reuters reported that the contingent numbered 20



James B. Donovan  
Mission accomplished

Americans, six "Latin-Americans," and a Canadian.

## 1,000 Refugees Coming

The various reports alleged that four are New Yorkers and one is from Washington.

They are: 1961 Bay of Pigs fireman Earl J. P. ... 20, of 250 ... Bay, S. I. ... 49; Joseph A. ... and Edmund ... 32 or 33 ... Daniel ...

Donovan also said an additional 1,000 refugees would be allowed to leave Cuba this week aboard the supply ship American Surveyor.

Donovan negotiated the ransom deal in 1962 for the release last Christmas of 1,113 prisoners taken in the abortive 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. The ransom value was set at \$53 million. Castro has now received 68% of the promised shipments.

## No New Ransom

Donovan's wire said the deal on freeing the Yanks today "does not involve any further pledges" of ransom, but was "an action of clemency on the part of the Cuban government."

The telegram was read by a former U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Leonard Scheele, at a Communion breakfast in Brooklyn's St. George Hotel of the Queens and Brooklyn Holy Name Society of the Police Department. Scheele helped raise the medical supplies used as ransom.

In the wire, Donovan said: "The end of this mission is imminent and accordingly it is not my present intention to make additional trips to Cuba in furtherance of the mission."

## At Work 6 Years

In his mission on which he left home, 35 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, last Thursday and arrived in Havana Saturday, Donovan apparently concluded a six-year career as an official international troubleshooter.

The career began when he was assigned to defend Col. Rudolf Abel, Soviet master spy who was executed here. Early last year he

of prisoners Abel and U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers. Last summer he began the negotiations with Castro.

## Got 2 Women Freed

After the freeing of the Bay of Pigs captives Donovan last month won the release of two American women held by Castro, and earlier in April he negotiated freedom for nine Yank fishermen who were imprisoned after their boat sank off Cuba. Donovan, 47, a corporation lawyer, has said "Castro has always been very courteous." Once asked how he got his role as a troubleshooter vis a vis the Reds, Donovan replied: "I don't know. I guess God put me here."

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